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Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 056146
ORIGIN SMI-01

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 USIA-06 CU-02 ISO-00 /020 R

DRAFTED BY SMI/OIP:RTCONROY;CU/NEA:AMFARSAKH:TH
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CU/NEA:GJGOLDMAN
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----------141814Z 026239 /43
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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY JIDDA PRIORITY

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FOR AMBASSADOR PORTER FROM ASST SECY-DESIGNATE DUFFEY

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SCUL, SA

SUBJECT: NORTH AMERICAN EXHIBIT, NEW SAUDI NATURAL HISTORY MUSEUM

REF: JIDDA 1696

1. I TALKED BRIEFLY WITH DILLON RIPLEY AT THE SMITHSONIAN AND CHARLES BLITZER, ASSISTANT SECRETARY THERE. THEY BELIEVE THAT THE SMITHSONIAN WOULD HAVE NO PROBLEM WITH DONATING ITEMS TO THE EXHIUIT, WHICH WE UNDERSTAND FROM YOUR TELEGRAM THAT THE SAG IS SEEKING. THE SMITHSONIAN ALSO
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WILL BE VERY PLEASED TO COOPERATE WITH CU IN THE LOCATION OF A DISPLAY/INSTALLATION SPECIALIST WHO WOULD RECEIVE AN AMERICAN SPECIALIST GRANT FOR THIS ASSIGNMENT. SMITHSONIAN IS ALSO PREPARED TO PROVIDE FACILITATIVE ASSISTANCE FOR THE PROJECT.

2. SMITHSONIAN CONIDERING SENDING MR. UAUL PERROT,

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SMITHSONIAN ASSISTANT SECR:TARY FOR MUSEUM PROGRAMS, TO SAUDI ARABIA TO EXPLORE WAYS SMITHSONIAN MIGHT ASSIST NEW SAUDI NATURAL ;ISTORY MUSEUM.

3. PERROT TO BE IN EUROPE MARCH 15-22 AND IN EGYPT MARCH 27. SMITHSONIAN BUDGET HEARINGS PRESENTLY SC;EDULED FOR SENATE MARCH 24 AND HOUSE APRIL 5. IF SENATE HEARINGS SHOULD BE POSTPONED, PERROT WOULD FLY FROM LONDON TO JIDDA APPROXIMATELY MARCH 23, AND PROCEED TO CAIRO ABOUT 26TH. HOWEVER, IF HEARINGS NOT DELAYED, PERROT WOULD HAVE TO SCHEDULE SAUDI VISIT AFTER HOUSE HEARINGS, ACTUAL DATE OF TRAVEL UNCERTAIN BUT POSSIBLY MAY.

4. PERROT WOULD EXPECT CONSULT WITH EMBASSY AND WITH DEAN OF UNIVERSITY OF RIYADH SCIENCE FACULTY, BUT WOULD BE PLEASED TO HAVE ADDITIONAL EMBASSY SUGGESTIONS. PERROT IS SPECIALIST IN MUSEUM ORGANIZATION AND OPERATIONS INCLUDING EXHIBITS, AND IS OFFICER OF BOTH AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF MUSEUMS AND THE INTERNATIONAL COUNCIL OF MUSEUMS.

5. WE ARE ALL AGREED THAT MORE MONEY MAY 0E REQUIRED THAN THE MODEST AMOUNT OF DOLS 5,000 YOU CITE. PERHAPS ARAMCO COULD BE TAPPED FOR ADDITIONAL FUNDS SINCE, I AM TOLD, THEY APPROACHED THE SMITHSONIAN FIVE YEARS AGO ABOUT THE MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY AND STILL MAY HAVE AN INTEREST.

6. IN ADDITION TO THE SMITHSONIAN, THERE MAY BE A ROLE FOR ONE OR TWO U.S. MUSEUMS. THE CONTENT OF THE EXHIBIT SOUNDS
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RAT;ER STANDARD AND COOPERATING MUSEUMS SHOULD NOT 0E DIFFICULT TO LOCATE. THEY MAY WANT TO INSIST UPON AN EXCHANGE FROM THE SAUDI MUSEUM AND WE WOULD SUPPORT THEM IN THIS QUID PRO QUO.

7. EMBASSY REQUESTED ADVISE SMITHSONIAN REGARDING SUITABILITY OF VISIT AS PROPOSED. SMITHSONIAN WILL IFORM EMBASSY IMMEDIATELY OF MARCH DATE MADE POSSI0LE THROUGH POSTPONEMENT SENATE HEARINGS.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: CULTURAL EXHIBITS
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Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977STATE056146
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: RTCONROY;CU/NEA:AMFARSAKH:TH
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
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Format: TEL
From: STATE
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Litigation History:
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Message ID: 954b7bb8-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ORIGIN SMI
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 77 JIDDA 1696
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 31-Mar-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3116286
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: NORTH AMERICAN EXHIBIT, NEW SAUDI NATURAL HISTORY MUSEUM
TAGS: SCUL, SA, US, SMI
To: JIDDA
Type: TE
vdkvgwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/954b7bb8-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
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